

MP3 Players

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Audio Formats

- .WAV – lowest compression creates largest files with best sound quality – CD quality.
- .MP3 – higher compression with slightly less quality

.AAC – even higher compression with slightly less sound quality. Small files. Associated w/iTunes.

.WMA – similar to AAC compression and quality but for Windows Media Player.

DRM (Digital Rights Management) Wars



- Apple uses AAC DRM in iPods and iTunes
- Most other players use WMA DRM (Windows Media Player, OverDrive, NetLibrary)
- Zune and Sony have their own DRM

Hard Drive v Flash Memory

Hard Drives

- Much greater capacity – up to 160 GB
- More storage capacity for less money – 60 GB Zen Vision W @ \$400
- Larger devices
- More fragile
- May have more features

Flash

- Largest flash capacity around 16 GB
- Flash memory relatively more expensive – 16 GB Zen @ \$250
- Smaller size
- Less fragile

Rechargeable v Replaceable Batteries

Rechargeable

- Most recharge via USB port on computer
- Power adaptors \$20 - \$40 extra
- May need to be recharged for long books

Replaceable

- Most use AAA batteries - inexpensive and easy to replace
- Relatively few players available

Devices for Checkout?



- Easy to use
- Inexpensive
- Few parts to lose or damage
- At least 512 MB storage
- WMA DRM compatible
- Can handle large single files

Items to Consider

- Headphones
- AAA batteries
- Car stereo converters
 - Cassette adapters
 - FM transmitters
- Accessories
- Firmware updates

Test Players

- Creative Muvo V100 1 GB - \$29.99
- Creative Zen Nano 1 GB - \$24.99
- SanDisk Sansa M240 1 GB - \$34.99
- Creative Zen V 1 GB - \$39.99 – *probably not for check out*

Desirable Features

- Bookmarking
- FM radio
- Voice recording
- Calendar
- Contacts
- Photos
- Cell phone
- Video
- Music
- Direct CD recording
- Music subscription services
- WiFi
- Replaceable rechargeable battery
- Additional flash memory
- Games
- Software

Other Options

- Listening to audiobooks on desktop or laptop
 - Can use USB drive to download audiobook from library and transfer to home computer
- Burn to CD (option with some OverDrive titles)
- OverDrive's list of compatible devices
<http://www.overdrive.com/resources/drc/compatibledevices.asp>